

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of accelerating wound healing, comprising applying to a wound an effective amount to accelerate wound healing of at least one peptide other than Angiotensin II, said peptide consisting essentially of at least three contiguous amino acids and having a sequence corresponding to a subsequence of groups R¹-R⁸ in general formula I:

R¹ - R² - R³ - R⁴ - R⁵ - R⁶ - R⁷ - R⁸ (SEQ ID NO:15), wherein

R¹ is selected from the group consisting of Asp, Glu, Asn, Acpc, Ala, Me²Gly, Pro, Bet, Glu(NH₂), Gly, Asp(NH₂) and Suc;

R² is selected from the group consisting of Arg, Lys, Ala, Orn, Ser(Ac), Sar, D-Arg and D-Lys;

R³ is selected from the group consisting of Val, Ala, Leu, Ile, Gly, Pro, Aib, Acpc and Tyr;

R⁴ is selected from the group consisting of Tyr, Thr, Ser and azaTyr;

R⁵ is selected from the group consisting of Ile, Ala, Leu, Val and Gly;

R⁶ is His or Arg;

R⁷ is Pro or Ala; and

R⁸ is selected from the group consisting of Phe, Phe(Br), Ile and Tyr, excluding sequences wherein R⁴ is an amino terminal Tyr group of the peptide.

2. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the peptide is administered in matrical or micellar solution.

3. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the peptide is administered in an amount of at least 0.1 ng per kg body weight in a suitable carrier or diluent.

4. A method according to Claim 3, wherein the carrier or diluent is selected from the group consisting of carboxymethyl cellulose preparations, crystalloid preparations, viscoelastics, polyethylene glycols and polypropylene glycols.

5. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the peptide is administered in conjunction with a wound dressing.

6. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the peptide has a sequence consisting essentially of R¹ - R² - R³ in general formula I.

7. A method according to Claim 6, wherein the peptide has a sequence consisting essentially of Asp - Arg - Val (SEQ ID NO:11).
8. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the peptide has a sequence consisting essentially of $R^1 - R^2 - R^3 - R^4$ in general formula I.
- 5 9. A method according to Claim 8, wherein the peptide has a sequence consisting essentially of Asp - Arg - Val - Tyr (SEQ ID NO:10).
- 10 10. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the peptide has a sequence consisting essentially of $R^1 - R^2 - R^3 - R^4 - R^5$ in general formula I.
11. A method according to Claim 10, wherein the peptide has a sequence consisting essentially of Asp - Arg - Val - Tyr - Ile (SEQ ID NO:9).
12. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the peptide has a sequence consisting essentially of $R^1 - R^2 - R^3 - R^4 - R^5 - R^6$ in general formula I.
13. A method according to Claim 12, wherein the peptide has a sequence consisting essentially of Asp - Arg - Val - Tyr - Ile - His (SEQ ID NO:8).
- 15 14. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the peptide has a sequence consisting essentially of $R^3 - R^4 - R^5 - R^6 - R^7$ in general formula I.
16. A method according to Claim 14, wherein the peptide has a sequence consisting essentially of Val - Tyr - Ile - His - Pro (SEQ ID NO:6).
- 20 17. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the peptide has a sequence consisting essentially of $R^2 - R^3 - R^4 - R^5 - R^6 - R^7$ in general formula I.
18. A method according to Claim 16, wherein the peptide has a sequence consisting essentially of Arg - Val - Tyr - Ile - His - Pro (SEQ ID NO:5).
- 25 19. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the peptide has a sequence consisting essentially of $R^3 - R^4 - R^5 - R^6 - R^7 - R^8$ in general formula I.
20. A method according to Claim 18, wherein the peptide has a sequence consisting essentially of Val - Tyr - Ile - His - Pro - Phe (SEQ ID NO:3).
21. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the peptide has a sequence consisting essentially of $R^5 - R^6 - R^7 - R^8$ in general formula I.
- 30 22. A method according to Claim 20, wherein the peptide has a sequence consisting essentially of Ile - His - Pro - Phe (SEQ ID NO:7).

22. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the peptide comprises poly-Gly.

23. A method according to Claim 22, wherein the peptide has a sequence selected from Asp-Arg-Val-Gly-Gly-Gly-Gly (SEQ ID NO:16) and Gly-Gly-Gly-Asp-Arg-Val (SEQ ID NO:17).

24. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the peptide comprises poly-Lys.

25. A method according to Claim 24, wherein the peptide has a sequence selected from Arg-Val-Tyr-Ile-His-Pro-Lys-Lys-Lys (SEQ ID NO:18) and Lys-Lys-Lys-Lys-Arg-Val-Tyr-Ile-His-Pro (SEQ ID NO:19)

26. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the peptide comprises a D-amino acid.

27. A method according to Claim 26, wherein the peptide has a sequence selected from D-Ala-Ile-His-Pro-Phe (SEQ ID NO:20); and Ile-His-Pro-Phe-D-Ala (SEQ ID NO:21)

28. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the peptide is PEGylated.

29. A method according to Claim 28, wherein the PEGylated peptide is selected from the peptides of SEQ ID NOS. 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11.